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COMICS**



#16

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MUTANT X™



**BIG
TROUBLE...**

**...IN THE
BIG
EASY!**

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MACKIE NORD PEPOY



IN ANOTHER PLACE - IN ANOTHER LIFE - ALEX SUMMERS LED A TEAM OF MUTANTS IN A BATTLE AGAINST OPPRESSION. HIS METHODS WERE EXTREME, HIS TACTICS QUESTIONABLE, BUT - IN HIS SOUL - HE KNEW THAT HE WAS FIGHTING FOR THE GREATER GOOD. NOW THAT SOUL HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER WORLD, AND SUMMERS, ALSO KNOWN AS HAVOK, HAS FOUND HIMSELF LIVING A LIE, ALLIED WITH A TEAM OF MUTANTS WHO ARE SINISTER, PARALLEL VERSIONS OF HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY. IT IS TO THIS DARK, NEW PLACE THAT HAVOK HAS COME, WHERE HE STANDS AS A MAN ALONE... A MUTANT ALONE. ALEX SUMMERS IS MUTANT X. FEAR HIM. FEAR FOR HIM. STAN LEE PRESENTS:

MUTANT X

Boo and Flan

HOWARD MACKIE
CARY NORD
ANDREW PEPOV
STORY AND ART

HAVANNAH,
GEORGIA.

JONAH REEVES RUNS
THROUGH HIS MIDDLE
SCHOOL PLAYGROUND
AS HE HAS DOZENS OF
TIMES BEFORE.

BUT THIS TIME IT IS
NOT A GAME OF TAG
OR CAPTURE THE FLAG
WHICH MOTIVATES
YOUNG JONAH.

THIS IS
NO GAME.

AND JONAH KNOWS
THAT TO STOP WILL
MEAN HIS CERTAIN
DEATH!

GINA
GOING
COLORING

CHRIS
ELIPOULOS
LETTERING

JASON
LIEBIG
EDITOR

BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR
IN CHIEF



NO!
UGPH!



POOM!



NOT
GOING TO RUN
ANYMORE.



LIKE WE
DID TO THE
REST OF
THEM?



OH YEAH!
CAN'T LEAVE
NO WITNESSES,
HARRY.



JUST LIKE
BEFORE... WE
ALL PULL THE
TRIGGERS ON
THESE THINGS
TOGETHER!



COUNT OF
THREE.

ONE...
TWO...





RUNNING
DIDN'T HELP
MOM AND
DAD.

DIDN'T
HELP... HELP...
LAURIE.

CAN'T
RUN.

BELONG
WITH THEM.

LOOK
AT HIM!

STANDING
THERE LIKE HE'S
ALL INNOCENT...
LIKE HE'S NOT
A MUTANT!



YEAH! LIKE
WE DIDN'T SEE
WHAT YOU DID
TO TOM BACK
THERE!

WELL, DICK...
ARE WE GOING
TO... YOU
KNOW...

DROP YOUR
WEAPONS AND
BACK AWAY FROM
THE CHILD!

**CAPTAIN
AMERICA!**



THIS IS
NONE OF YOUR
CONCERN, AVENGER.
THIS IS BETWEEN US
ORDINARY HUMANS
AND THE MUTANTS!

THEY THINK
THEY'RE BETTER
THAN US! WE'VE
GOT TO SHOW
THEM... SHOW
THEM GOOD!

THEN I
DON'T SUPPOSE
YOU'LL MIND IF
WE GET
INVOLVED?





YOU
KNOW...

... ORDINARY
HUMANS...

... TO ORDINARY
MUTANTS!

HAVOK?

AND
THE SIX?

THEY'RE
REAL?
THEY'RE
REALLY
REAL!

WE'RE NOT
AFRAID OF YOU
MUTIES!

WE KNOW
YOU... YOU GUYS
PARTICULARLY... ARE
THE ONES THAT
ALMOST DESTROYED
THE WHOLE
WORLD!

YOU THINK
JUST BECAUSE
OF SOME FREAK
GENETIC MUTATION
WHICH GIVES YOU
WEIRD POWERS
THE HUMAN RACE
IS GOING TO ROLL
OVER AND DIE?

THINK
AGAIN!

SO MUCH FOR
FEAR, INTIMIDATION
AND A REASONABLE
RESOLUTION TO THE
PROBLEM AT
HAND.

YES, HAVOK,
THAT WOULD
HAVE BEEN NICE,
BUT RIGHT NOW
I'M MORE
CONCERNED WITH
HOW A BUNCH OF
LOW-LIFE, BIGOTED
REDNECKS WERE
ABLE TO GET AHEAD
OF SUCH
SOPHISTICATED
WEAPONRY.

THIS
DISTURBS
ME.

FOOTBALL
EXPRESS
COMIN' AT YA,
ICE-MAN!

ROBERT!
HENRY! THIS
IS NOT A TIME
TO FOOL
AROUND!

THERE IS
A YOUNG CHILD
AMONGST US WHO
MUST BE
PROTECTED!

YES,
BLOODSTORM!

SPOIL-
SPORT.

SEND HIM
MY WAY, BRUTE
OLD BUDDY!

COME ON,
ORORO, LIGHTEN
UP A LITTLE.

WE'VE BEEN
ON THE ROAD
FOR AN AWFUL
LONG TIME.

IT'S OKAY
TO HAVE *SOME*
FUN EVERY ONCE
IN AWHILE...



... OR
MAYBE
NOT.

THAT KID
COULD JUST
AS EASILY BE
SCOTTY.

AND NICK FURY
AND HIS S.H.I.E.L.D.
STORMTROOPERS
AREN'T TAKING THE
HUNTING DOWN OF
MUTANTS ANY TOO
LIGHTLY.

THEY SAY
MUTANTS ARE
BEING ROUNDED
UP FOR THEIR OWN
PROTECTION.

BUT ISN'T
THAT WHAT THEY
ALWAYS SAY?

WHEN I FIRST
CAME TO THIS WORLD
A FEW MONTHS BACK,
EVERYTHING WAS SO
DIFFERENT.

UNLIKE THE
WORLD I WAS BORN
INTO, MUTANTS AND
HUMANS WERE LIVING
IN PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE.

AND THEN
THE GOBLIN QUEEN
CAME ALONG AND
RUINED IT ALL.

NOW ALL I
CAN DO IS STAND
BY AND WATCH AS
THIS WORLD BECOMES
AN EVEN DARKER
VERSION OF MY
OWN.

I WON'T
LET IT
HAPPEN.

I...





...WON'T!!

YEARCH!!



NO... PLEASE... DON'T KILL ME! PLEASE!

I'VE GOT A WIFE... A KID... I--

PLEASE...

YOU SEE THIS, SON?

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THIS MAN REPRESENTS A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE HUMANS ON THE PLANET. CURRENTLY THEY ARE A VERY VOCAL, AND DANGEROUS, MINORITY.

BUT THEY ARE A MINORITY. DON'T LET THEIR HATE... THEIR HATEFUL ACTIONS... INFECT YOU.

WE'RE GOING TO FIND A PLACE FOR HIM. A SAFE PLACE. BUT FIRST...

... BOB, I THINK WE NEED AN EXAMPLE MADE HERE TODAY!

WITH PLEASURE, BOSS!



A SHORT TIME
LATER...



THAW THOSE
MEN OUT! AND
GIVE 'EM HOT
SHOWERS!

THIS IS
THE WORK OF
THE MUTANTS!
HAYOK AND HIS
PEOPLE.

DUM DUM!
WHERE ARE THE
ESPER?

RIGHT
HERE, GENERAL
FURY.



EXCELLENT.
THEY SENT ME
THE BASTION
MODEL.

GET TO IT,
MAN. DO YOU
HAVE THE MUTANT'S
TRAIL, OR NOT?

THEY WERE
HERE.

AND NOW
THEY ARE
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

I KNOW
THAT, BUT
CAN YOU TELL
ME WHERE
THEY ARE?



OF
COURSE.



THE FRENCH QUARTER
OF NEW ORLEANS.

MARDI
GRAS.

A TIME OF
CELEBRATION.

A TIME OF
PARTIES.

A TIME OF
COSTUMES!

AND AMIDST THE DAILY
DECORATED COSTUMES,
THE SIX, UNIQUE AS THEY
ARE, BARELY STAND OUT.

MASTER HAVOK, I
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
A COMMUNICATION FROM
MISTRESS ELEKTRA AND
SHE INFORMS ME THAT
SHE AND MASTER SCOTTY
HAVE SETTLED INTO THEIR
NEW QUARTERS QUITE
NICELY.

SHE SAYS
THAT THE TOWN OF—

NO, CEREBRO!
I HAD ELEKTRA
TAKE SCOTTY AWAY
FOR A REASON.

I NEED TO STAY
FOCUSED ON OUR
MISSION TO DISCOVER
AND RESCUE MUTANTS
BEFORE FURY'S PEOPLE
CAN FIND THEM AND, IN
ORDER FOR ME TO DO
THAT, I CAN'T BE
WORRIED ABOUT
SCOTTY.

ELEKTRA
ASSURED ME
SHE KNEW OF A
SAFE PLACE FOR
HIM. THAT'S ALL
I WANT TO KNOW
FOR NOW.

SO, CEREBRO,
WHERE IS THIS
MUTANT WE'VE
COME TO FIND IN
NEW ORLEANS?

WELL, SIR...
THE THING IS...
I APPER TO
HAVE MADE AN
ERROR.

EXCUSE
ME?

OH... THE YOUNG
MUTANT WE SEEK IS
HERE, BUT... THERE
APPEAR TO BE
OTHERS.

WHAT
OTHERS?

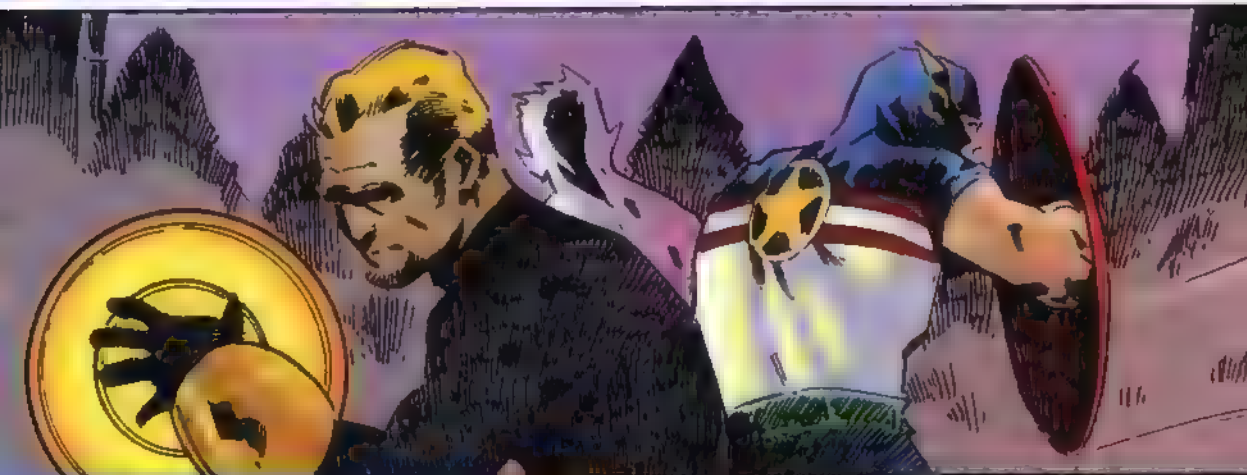
MANY OTHERS
AND...



I BELIEVE WE
ARE ABOUT TO FIND
OUT SIR

THANKS
FOR THE INFO,
CEREBRO, BUT,
JUST FOR FUTURE
USE...

... NEXT
TIME WE NEED
WARNING!



DIS ISN'T
A FIGHT YOU
CAN BE WINNIN',
HUMMERS.

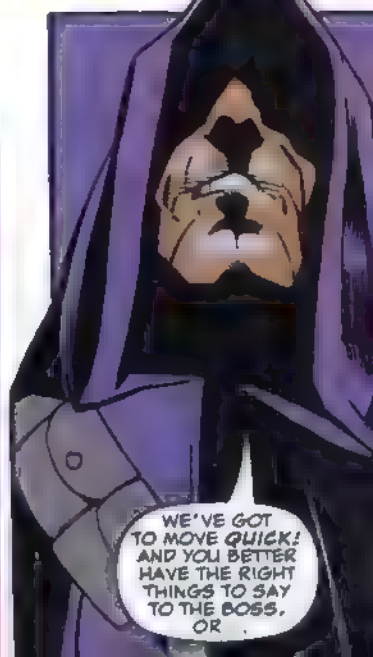
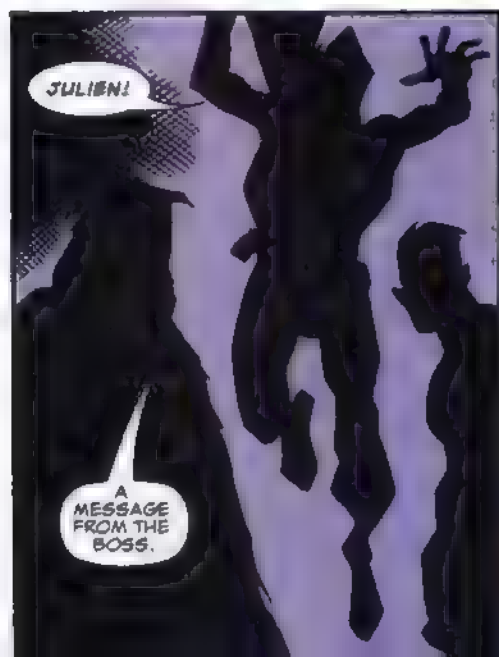
YOU BE
COMING WITH
US. THE BOSS
WANTS TA BE
MEETIN' WITH
Y'ALL.

THE
BOSS?
THE BOSS
OF--



THE UNITED
GUILDS OF THIEVES
AND ASSASSINS.
WE OWN NEW
ORLEANS

... OR YOU
DIE WHERE YOU
STAND
YOU COME...



A SHORT TIME LATER...

DIS IS DEM. BOSS.

HAVOK AND THE SIX.

BUT WHY IS BELLA DONNA AND RAVEN HERE? WE GOT PLANS TO BE MADE, HAVING YOUR WIFE AND CHILD AROUND--

IS EXACTLY WHAT I NEED, JULIEN.

YOUR SISTER, MY WIFE... AND MY DAUGHTER MAKE SURE THAT I DON'T MAKE NO RASH DECISIONS.

YOU SHOULD TRY GETTIN' MARRIED... IT CHANGES A MAN.

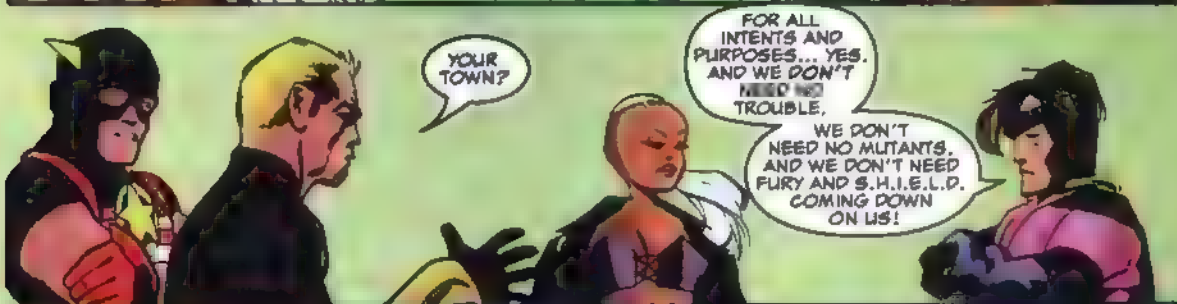
DON'T YOU THINK, HAVOK?

THE FAMOUS SIX!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT NONE OUR PATHS HAVEN'T CROSSED UNTIL NOW.

NONE EXCEPT...





I'VE SET UP
NEW ORLEANS AS
A T'ING APART FROM
THE REST OF THE
UNITED STATES. I
AM THE LAW
HERE.

THE CITY SERVES AS A BASE
OF MY OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD... A VERY SAFE BASE OF
OPERATIONS... AND I DON'T NEED
ANY MUTANT FREEDOM FIGHTERS
CALLIN' THE ATTENTION
OF--

YOU MAY
NOT BE A BIG
FAN OF MUTANTS,
GAMBIT, BUT...

... WE'RE SHOWIN'
THAT YOU HAVE
MORE THAN A FEW
DOWN HERE. SOME
STANDIN' IN THIS
ROOM!

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYIN'?

RRRRRMMMMMMBBBLLLE

RRRRMMMMMMBBBLLLE

I'M SAYING
THAT THIS IS A
PROBLEM YOU
CAN'T AVOID!

WE CAME
DOWN HERE TO
SAVE A MUTANT,
BUT NOW IT TURNS
OUT THAT--

RRRRRRRRRRMMMMMMBBBLLLE

WHAT
IS THAT
NOISE?

IT IS WHAT
I'VE BEEN TRYING
TO EXPLAIN, SIR.

THAKKABADDOOM!

WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK!

BY
CONGRESSIONAL
ORDER 375112/43 ALL
MILITANTS ARE TO BE
PLACED IN PROTECTIVE
CUSTODY.

TO RESIST
WILL BE CONSIDERED
AN ACT OF AGGRESSION
AND WILL BE MET WITH
FORCE.

TRAITOR!

YOU COME
TO ME AND
PRETEND TO
WANT TO
HELP...

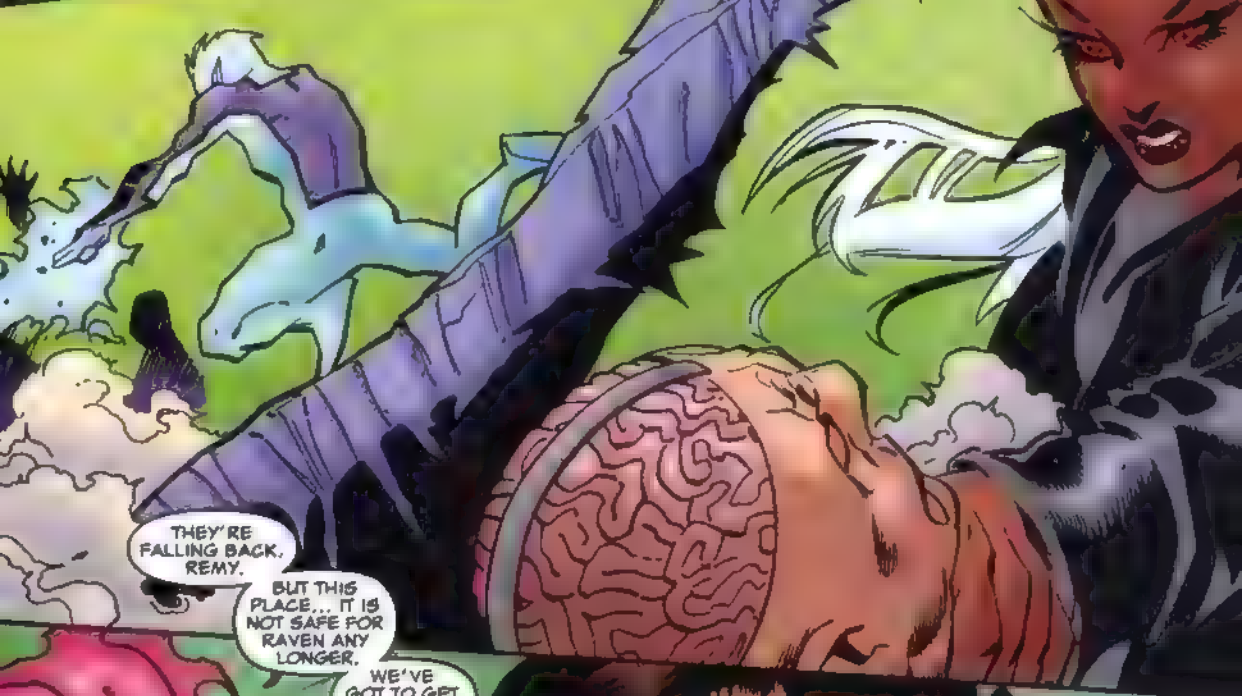
... INSTEAD
YOU'VE BETRAYED
ME AND MY
PEOPLE!





OKAY, PEOPLE,
THE LITTLE GIRL
IS THE MUTANT
WE WERE SENT
TO PROTECT...

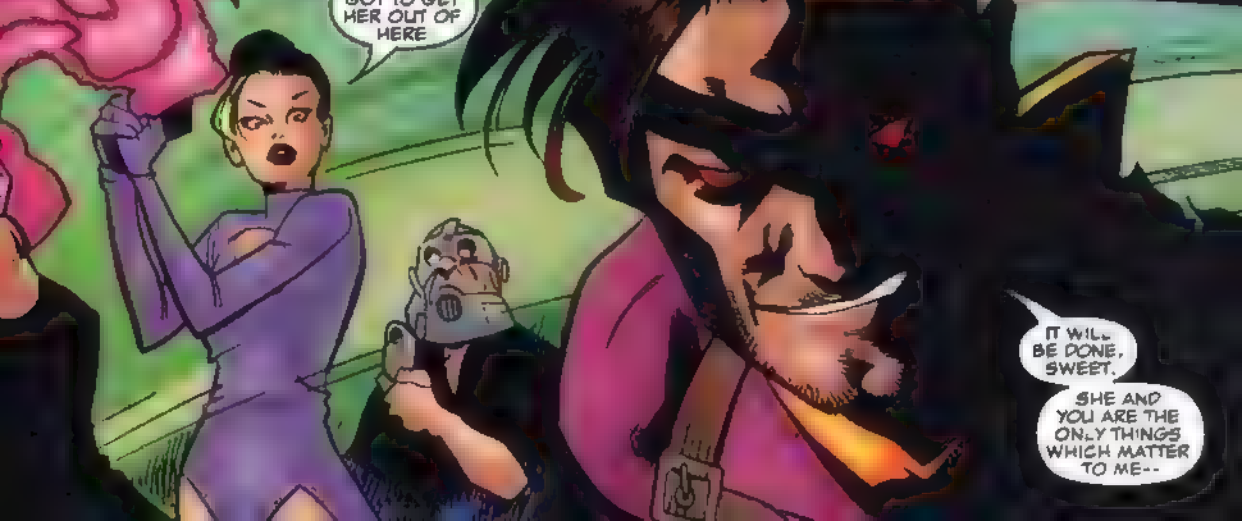
...LET'S
DO OUR
JOB!



THEY'RE
FALLING BACK,
REMY.

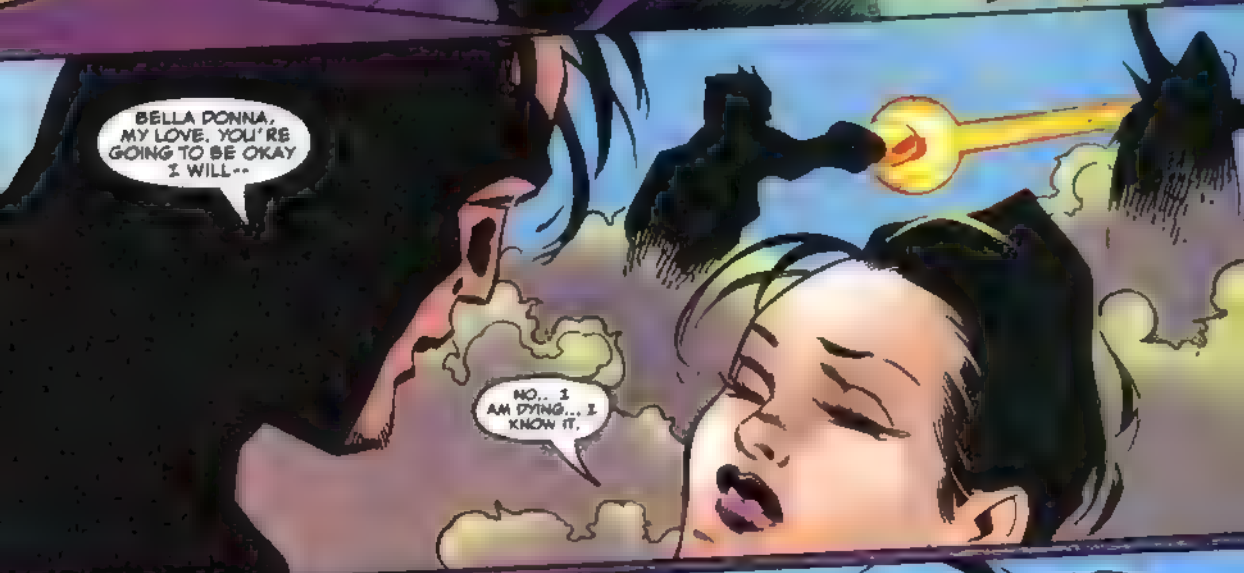
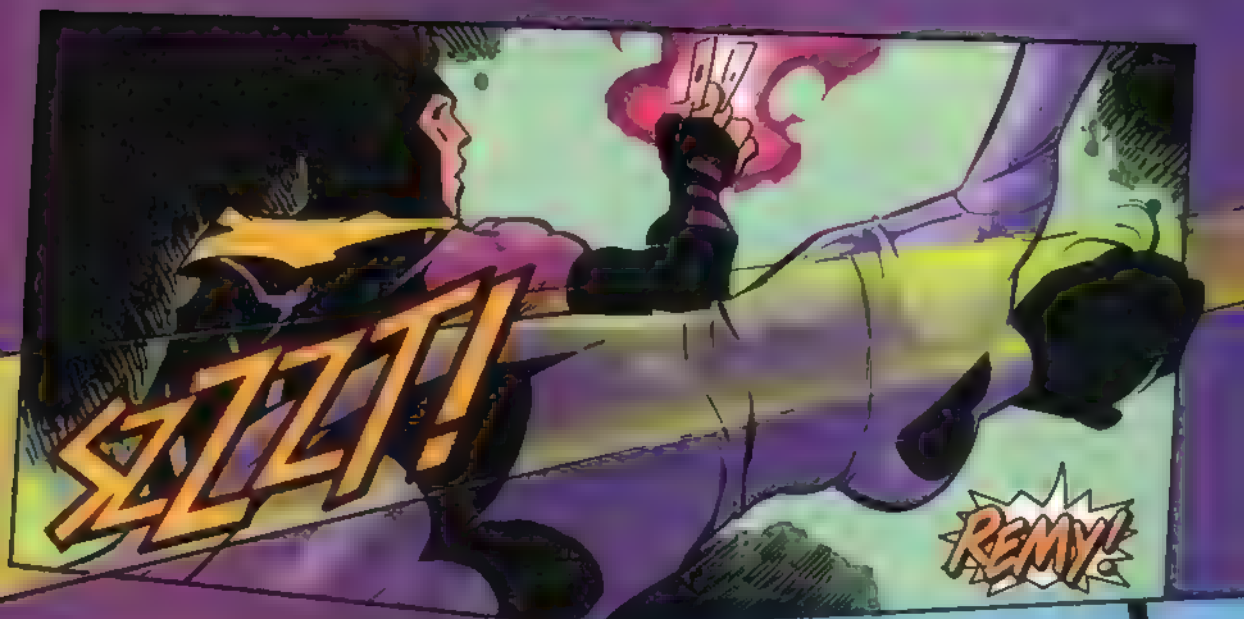
BUT THIS
PLACE... IT IS
NOT SAFE FOR
RAVEN ANY
LONGER.

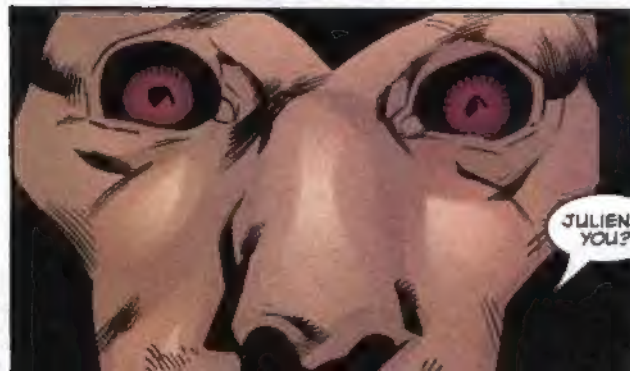
WE'VE
GOT TO GET
HER OUT OF
HERE




IT WILL
BE DONE,
SWEET.

SHE AND
YOU ARE THE
ONLY THINGS
WHICH MATTER
TO ME--






A close-up comic book panel showing Gambit on the left, looking towards Wolverine on the right. Gambit has his signature spiky blonde hair and a yellow and orange striped shirt. Wolverine is in the foreground, wearing his black mask and purple and black striped shirt, holding a deck of cards. The background is dark and indistinct.

GAMBIT!
YOU CAN'T JUST
CHARGE IN!

THESE
OPERATIVES OF
S.H.I.E.L.D. ... THEY'RE
SOMETHING MORE THAN
THEY PRETEND TO BE...
THERE IS SOMETHING
FAMILIAR ABOUT
THEM.


I DON'T
CARE! THEY KILLED
MY BELLE! THEY'RE
TRYIN' TO TAKE
MY RAVEN...

... THEY'RE
GOIN' TO
DIE!

A vertical comic book panel showing a man with a long white beard and a blue robe standing in front of a large, arched stained glass window. He has a shocked or shouting expression. The window has a geometric pattern in shades of green and yellow.

BOLD WORDS,
CAJUN.

FUTILE, BUT
BOLD!

A vertical comic book panel showing a man in a blue robe in the foreground, looking towards a woman in the background. The woman is holding a child. They are in a room with large stained glass windows. The man has a long white beard and a shocked expression. The woman is wearing a purple top and a yellow headband. The child is being held up.

THE CHILD
DOESN'T BELONG
TO YOU...

... SHE
NEVER DID...
AND YOU KNEW
AS MUCH.

SHE IS
OURS AS SHE
EVER WAS.

OPPOSING
US AGAIN WILL
ONLY BRING ABOUT
YOUR EARLY
DEMISE.

AND YOU,
HAYOK...

... YOU ARE
RIGHT--THERE IS
SOMETHING FAMILIAR
IN THIS MEETING
OF OURS.

NOW THAT
THE CHILD IS
OURS AGAIN ALL
TRUTHS WILL BE
REVEALED...

... IN DUE
TIME.

RAVEN!

NO!

DADDY?

BYE.



GAMBIT,
I--

TIME TO
BURY MY
BELLE.

THEN I'M
LEAVING THIS
TOWN.

WITH BELLE
DEAD THE PEACE
OUR MARRIAGE BROUGHT
TO THE THIEVES AND
ASSASSINS GUILDS
WILL BE BROKEN
AGAIN.

AND
I DON'T
CARE.

I'M GOING
TO GET MY
DAUGHTER
BACK.

NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT
TAKES.


UNTIL
THEN...

... I'LL
BE JOININ'
Y'ALL.

NOT
A WORD,
HAVOK.

I KNOW
IT WASN'T
YOU.

I NEED
TIME.

 **END**